

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05269 141051Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 L-03 MC-02 AID-05 OMB-01 /054 W
----- 101432

R 140830Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4556

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MY, IT

SUBJECT: SALE OF ITALIAN APC'S TO MALAYSIA

REF: ROME 14820

1. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS TO THE PURCHASE OF OTO-MELARA M-113'S BY MALAYSIA. IN ADDITION, THE GOM IS FINANCIALLY CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING THIS PURCHASE WITHOUT DAMAGE TO OTHER PROGRAMS.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE A BIT PUZZLED BY THE GOI'S REQUEST FOR APPROVAL. IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FUTURE EQUIPMENT PLANS LAST AUGUST WITH AN OSD/ISA TEAM THE MALAYSIANS AGREED THAT IT WAS BETTER TO CONTINUE THE USE OF WHEELAND APC'S AND ARMORED CARS (MAINLY US-BUILT CADILLAC-GAGE V-100'S AND V-150'S). MAIN CONSIDERATION WAS MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH INTRODUCTION OF WHAT WOULD BE FIRST TRACKED VEHICLE IN ROYAL MALAYSIAN ARMY SERVICE. FURTHERMORE, A FOOD MACHINERY CORP. TEAM WAS HERE DURING THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS AND REPORTED NO SUCCESS IN SELLING 80-90 M-113'S THAT THEY HAD ON HAND AT THAT TIME. (FYI. AREA IN WHICH ANTI-COMMUNIST COMBAT OPERATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IS LAREGLY JUNGLE WHICH NEITHER VC-100/150'S NOR M-113 CAN PENETRATE. LATTER WOULD BE GOOD IN RICE PADDIES BUT AREA DEVOTED TO RICE CULTURE IS NOT EXTENSIVE WHEN COMPARED WITH FOREST.)

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PAGE 02 KUALA 05269 141051Z

UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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